

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENT

Support for the amendment to Claim 1 is found on page 10, lines 11-15 of the application which states: "The average pore size of the pores at the inlet side of the porous metal substrate should preferably be in the range of from one to thirty micrometers as determined by microscopic examination of a representative area of the substrate."

THE 102 REJECTION

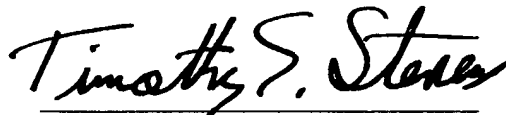
Claims 1, 3 and 5-8 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Ishii et al. '664 as detailed in part 2 of the Office Action.

Applicant responds by amending Claim 1 as detailed above to overcome the rejection. As pointed out by the Examiner in part 4 of the Office Action, Ishii et al. '644 teaches away from an average pore diameter below 100 micrometers. Claim 1 has been amended as detailed above to require an average pore diameter in the range of from 1-30 micrometers. Therefore amended Claim 1 (and dependent Claims 3 and 5-8) is patentable over Ishii et al. '664 under 35 USC 102(e) because Ishii et al. '644 teaches away from the range required in the amended claim.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified application based on the above detailed remarks and arguments.

Respectfully submitted,



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